NBC NEWS SPECIAL REPORT - HOME ARE THE BRAVE (1-27-1981)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI)

Uploaded by DANNOTCH'S NEWSVIDEOS (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7X0LKts7k4FT498Id_x5sg) on Wed Feb 24 2021.

From Tuesday, January 27th, 1981 NBC NEWS SPECIAL REPORT on the 52 American hostages homecoming in Washington D.C

00:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI)

we interrupt our regular program schedule to bring you the following nbc news special report on the homecoming of the former hostages home are the brave here from washington are nbc news correspondents roger mudd and john chancellor and you are looking at the second of four planes bringing the freed hostages and their families from west point to anders air force base in suburban washington dc one plane is already on the ground this is the second on its way in and as the former hostages are beginning a day of celebration that will be culminated by a presidential speech and welcome at the white house roger john on the ground our vice president and mrs bush the speaker of the house and members of the congress and the senate no formal welcoming ceremonies but lots of handshaking and hugging this is one of the first national experiences that america has had in years in which everybody feels good we're going to go out now to andrews and listen to the welcomes the informal ones and john dancy is our reporter at andrews field roger the first plane of kc 135 dubbed freedom one for this flight landed here about 10 minutes ago the door swung open on the inside of the door a huge yellow ribbon and as the hostages began filing down the steps a great cheer went up from this crowd of several thousand people who were gathered here at andrews air force base the air force base itself is closed for the day but many thousands of people have been brought in here by buses from the state department and other agencies downtown to witness this homecoming there you see many of the happy scenes taking place at the bottom of the ramp on the first plane the hostages are still filing down the steps now being greeted at the bottom of the steps by vice president bush leaders of the congressional delegation

00:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=120s)

leaders of the congressional delegation majority leader baker and house speaker o'neill [Music] nbc news correspondent george lewis is standing by in the studio george is our expert on hostage identifications or i should say ex-hostage identifications george can you identify the people who are coming down well i believe the man on the beard there is william belk um many of the hostages of course uh former hostages were gonna i guess that term hostage will be stuck with us for a while have changed their appearance in the last week many of them getting their beards trimmed getting haircuts one night [Music] there's charles jones the the only black held for all of the 444 days of the seas jones is from detroit behind him i believe are some state department representatives uh other people who joined the group family members uh it took one plane to bring the former hostages from germany now three planes to fly the entire group of former hostages family and officials to andrews air force base there's john limbert man in the mustache the jones family [Music] charles jones wife matty and his daughter behind him uh john cannon a representative from the state department who flew over to wiesbaden and acted as press spokesman during the time they were in the hospital there [Music] now back to the ground at andrews and john dancing george we're looking at the huge flag

00:04:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=241s)

george we're looking at the huge flag it's about two acres in size which has been spread out here in the middle of the field at tarmac it was the first sight the hostages saw as they flew over the field on their downwind leg approaching andrews air force base and there you see some of the families people who have come out here to greet the hostages some of them very thinly dressed it is a cool day in washington not so cold as it might be at midwinter and there we see the second plane a c9 the military version of the commercial dc-9 coming in that will be bringing other hostages as well the planes will land here at approximately 15-minute intervals four planes until all of them are on the ground steve delaney is down on the ground much closer to the people who are coming off the plane than i am steve john we've been trying to attract the attention of some of the hostages as they finish the receive exhaustion they finish their work through the receiving line the congressional leadership and then walk about 60 yards across the tarmac to a holding area where their families have been waiting and every time we saw a new face at the top of the ramp there'd be a new cheer from a small section of the crowd inside the holding area what they'll do in a minute is tow this big plane away and make room for the next one the receiving line headed by vice president george bush will reform and they'll go through the process of having the second of four plane loads of hostage hostages freed americans come in and be welcomed by the us navy band by the politicians by the military later by the president it's very warm here every once in a while someone will break out of the holding area where the families are supposed to wait come charging out into the middle of the tarmac and there'll be a huge collision of a hook which we're about to see one of right now [Music] the jones family now they're moving the dignitaries back away from the plane so they can tow it out of the way and make room for the next one [Music]

00:06:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=361s)

there to be no speeches out here as far as we know vice president bush has only been heard to say nice to see you how are you glad you're back and the appropriate things like that that the you're expected to say at the head of a receiving line the senators and congressmen representing the leadership of both houses are echoing that thought but the families seem to be more interested in going to to meet those who they haven't seen yet than in listening to the politicians and john can you see anybody from up there yes steve uh perhaps we should mention that these are uh what the state department is calling the extended families aunts uncles cousins nephews not the immediate families who went up to west point to greet the hostages ex-hostages and be with them over the weekend but these are the people that they have not seen yet many warm hugs and embraces as the hostages make their way from the receiving line over to the crowd waiting here at andrews air force base john what they're going to do now is as the first group is already reunited with its extended family members they will stay in that basic holding area and just kind of visit with each other until the other three plane loads arrive following which they're going to get uh onto the buses and motorcade down to the white house where they'll formally be received by president reagan and the rest of the group down there steve and john uh this john chancellor can you hear me yes john we can hear you go ahead uh can we talk a minute about the extended families that i think we're seeing now and point out to the audience that the people who got off the plane as we just saw are not only hostages but their mothers and fathers in some cases their wives in some cases or uh and um and these are other relatives we're seeing here not all these people got off that plane am i right in that yes that's right uh they came out in uh several buses about a dozen buses uh escorted out by the police they've been standing here for approximately a half hour waiting for the planes to arrive they came into washington uh within the last day or so and have been here

00:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=481s)

last day or so and have been here waiting for this moment this is their homecoming how do you get on that list to be a member of an extended family like this little fellow we're looking at now i don't think anybody's ever defined how you do that it's just i suppose that you feel that you must be here or you're going to die if you're not and it goes down to second cousins in some cases but everybody who believes that he just has to be part of this is finally here i think the definition of extended family is the definition that the hostage gave if he wants uh six cousins and eight brothers-in-law to be there they're going to be there they didn't go to west point of course but they were quartered at one of the local hotels which the state department took over on

the on the virginia side of the river the whole hotel has been given over to the hostage families all the way to cousins and nephews and they remained here in washington while while the actual intimate reunions took place up at west coast roger i should perhaps mention that the yellow ribbon has become a symbol of the efforts to free the hostage and of america's tie to the hostages and on the way out here to andrews air force base several hours ago it seemed that every tree every bush every guy wire and telephone call was festooned with some sort of yellow ribbon and here on the tarmac at the base even the military police guard dogs are wearing yellow ribbons around their collars it is the one one little symbol that has really tied everybody together in the united states in the last last months the yellow ribbon is uh has an interesting history goes back to a folk song about uh when the lover went off the war uh she remained behind and wore a ribbon at first it was a green ribbon and later it became a yellow ribbon over the years of course it's not had a great connotation of color it sometimes means envy at other times it means cowardice but whatever those old definitions the color yellow is the color of unity and

[00:10:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=602s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=602s)

color yellow is the color of unity and welcome and thanksgiving for america and uh this town is literally tied up not in in red tape but in yellow ribbon in downtown washington there's the national geographic building and the whole building has a yellow ribbon around it it's quite a large building about 10 or 12 maybe may i guess the count is 11 11 of these hostages live in the washington area maryland virginia the district this is the second plane now on the ground first one's been towed out of position there's mr german i think from rockville maryland there's a pretty woman's with their eyes riveted on that door and there's vice president bush at the base of the stairs [Music] that's roberto [Music] uh [Music] you know roger i wonder if any of the former hostages ever sat in their cells or their rooms and around wondered if something like this would ever happen to them some of them probably thought it would never happen but i wonder if others imagined that they might be met they're calling this a low-key perception it may be low-key you can hear the navy band in the background and the people at the bottom of the rank

[00:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=720s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=720s)

the people at the bottom of the rank really very high level so it's a kind of a combination low-key high-level ceremony the man with a camera is donald cook's father from memphis and uh oh he's the one of us yeah he's the professor quite a memorable moment for him and he's going to record it i guess [Music] one of her the quoted the other day when she came in with her husband on the 20-mile ride in from the airport to west point she said we kept waiting to go around to turn and not see anybody but every turn we rounded there were more and more of them i think that'll be the way it is on the road in washington dc today which we'll be seeing here on the back this afternoon a part of that and once they get into the district there ought to be a very large crowd estimates go as high as the 200 000 there is no official for federal workers but there's a nobody really going to complain about sneaking out for a couple hours this afternoon have a good reunion yes no one's asking about you today that's the voice of vice president bush of course [Music] great [Music] you know john and roger i covered bush's campaign and his greeting style hasn't changed from the campaign days that high glad to see is so nice to see you style that's a special language shared by all politicians but he did recognize one of the hostages there a minute ago he said i haven't seen you in about four years [Music] that's senator byrd now the minority leader of the senate and jim wright of texas the majority leader

[00:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=841s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=841s)

jim wright of texas the majority leader of the house just standing in place [Music] the uh the motorcade route goes through prince george's county which is southeast of washington though andrews air force base is about 12 miles from the white house and the motorcade runs along superman parkway which is a roger limited access road the man there warmly embracing his family is william doherty and uh we believe he was one of the people held in solitary confinement for the longest time no pictures uh were ever seen of him during those periods were there now and what's what was his job at the embassy well he had one of those

nebulous embassy titles iranians suspected that he was a cia man and released documents reporting to show that he had connections with the central intelligence agency [Music] this morning at the press conference when the press began to zero in on is it sergeant gallegos i guess it's sergeant diegos by now uh bruce langen who was very much in control of that press conference snapped the questioning off a bit and diverted it somewhere else [Music] bruce german from rockville maryland i believe that's his mother on the left [Music] that's dwayne gillette there the navy man with the glasses on a lot of these families are going to remember this reunion for a long time because uh for a lot of the extended family members it's probably a reunion amongst them too

00:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=960s)

it's probably a reunion amongst them too well there it is at andrews half of the planes have come in now we've got two more to go before this group assembles for a triumphant entry into the nation's capital we'll be back with more coverage of the return of the three hostages after this [Music] a lot of emotion a lot of deep feeling and uh i'm just privileged to be a small part of it nbc news coverage of the hostage arrival in washington continues this is the third plane about to touch down at andrews air force base 12 miles from washington bringing hostages and their immediate families down from west point for the official motorcade into washington and then to the white house vice president bush is uh really the leading dignitary and he is now talking to the press or was i think we just lost him well he'll come again i bet that's uh on his left peter thiele is press secretary and they're going back now to the base of the steps that will be rolled up to the third airplane bringing the hostages in what he said when he was here was that it was a very emotional and moving thing for him to stand at the foot of the ramp and to to watch these returning hostages come down and getting off the steps knowing that they had to go through the process of the receiving line talking to the senators talking to the representatives talking to the members of their own state department secretary weinberger defense department but knowing also that what they really wanted to do was get over there to that group of family members that they hadn't seen in such a long time and get the official part of the welcome over with as soon as i could mr bush said it was a moving thing a very emotional thing for him just to watch the faces as they came down the ladder

00:18:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=1081s)

ladder steve i read this morning that uh that one woman at least was so anxious to pay her respects to these hostages that she has delayed by one day the funeral of her mother-in-law so that she can go down by sibling parkway and whoop and holler she said i think she's got a house on superman be decked with yellow ribbons this morning it was one of the bushes that had been so well treated down there that it looked like a forsythia bush bursting into early bloom it wasn't of course it was anything that's that's that you can tie a ribbon around whether it's a parking meter or a guy wire some of the children who have been coming to the fence out here have brought along little tear off pieces of shrubbery just branches that they have tied yellow ribbons to and they um have been standing behind the fence and waving those just as hard as they possibly can in case you just tuned in this is the third of four planes uh coming bringing the former hostages and their families to a welcome at anders air force base some very high people the speaker of the house you just saw there they'll be met here and they will assemble here and later this afternoon they will there's a hostage former hostage who got out early mr queen uh they they will assemble here at andrews and then have a slow-moving motorcade into the district of columbia down pennsylvania avenue and to the white house where the president will then join the proceedings and that'll happen later this afternoon and you'll see that on nbc john the uh the motorcade into town will consist of 15 buses lots of police the buses are supplied by the local transit company and i think those buses do not have smoke glass windows which means that we'll be able to see the hostages and their families inside on that trip in from west point the other day you couldn't see in they could see out

00:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=1200s)

see out and tonight the zambella fireworks company of pennsylvania has donated twenty five thousand dollars worth of fireworks and we'll have another explosion of skyward pyrotechnics of quarter of seven beginning this evening following the white house ceremony roger and john in addition to uh the released hostages uh the one we saw there are a number of people who were in the first group the first 13 released about the third week of the seizure we saw sergeant william quarles in the group uh next to richard queen and so the whole the whole group of hostages will be reunited in the ceremonies this afternoon and in the ceremonies this afternoon i think we ought to point out that there will be the families of the eight americans who died in the failed rescue attempt and i think that's very important that they be brought in and made a part of this those are the ultimate casualties in this operation and there will also be at the white house the ambassadors of canada and algeria algeria of course having acted as middlemen in these negotiations to reach what is now becoming uh it's now being called the algiers accord which helped bring the hostages to freedom and the representative of canada a government that sheltered a number of americans who got out of the embassy in tehran and then were spirited out of iran with canadian help for which the united states is properly grateful if ever there were heroes they are those eight who did not come back and if ever there were victims of what jimmy carter said was savagery and barbarism it was those eight who were left on that desert to be used as photographic props for the iranians [Music] [Applause] this is airplane number three roger airplane number four is over the

00:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=1320s)

roger airplane number four is over the field right now and is going in for his downwind leg i suspect that he'll continue to fly over the field until the greetings have been completed for this plane number three area is just going off into the distance now the idea is to let each plane each group of uh freed americans have their own day in the limelight their own chance to greet their relatives here the relatives if i am not mistaken do not know precisely which plane their relatives are on and so a lot of anxious looks as the planes taxi up john it's kind of an emotional day here at the at the airport not kind of it is an extremely emotional day and uh there were some scenes here which uh some of our cameras have recorded but not put on the air yet we want to show you one now about some people being carried away literally that's donald cook from virginia he's a geologist and obviously a very enthusiastic reception from his family and friends just uh down in the corner of the enclosure for the extended families here someone is down on the ground we don't know whether they have collapsed just by from emotion but an ambulance has been brought up and people are rushing to help the person who is down there john it's kind of ironic it seems to me that we've taken these 52 americans through a really very very bad patch and all of them came back walking and we come out here to andrews air force base and somebody gets overcome or gets a tummy ache or something the point i think i'm trying to make to us all is that the fact that all 52 got back and here are some more of them is really incredible given the circumstances of their captivity and the time in which they were held that was air force captain paul needham

00:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=1440s)

that was air force captain paul needham there shaking hands with the bushes [Music] secretary of state shaking hands now mrs bush in blue [Music] speaker o'neill first marine there michael mohler his family lives in quantico virginia his wife two daughters must say that the marines have turned out uh with a lot of spit and polish we got them into the uniforms as quickly as they could got the haircuts done shades and the marines looked quite fit i imagine the marine commandant general barrel must have winced this morning when he heard sgt mckeel of texas say we marines are all right all we want to do is get back and start chasing women [Music] the bearded man there was jerry meow he was one of the fellows who did not take part in the news conference i guess it was voluntary whether the hostage was one who played part in the news conference but he didn't this is the lopez family from globe arizona father and mother of james lopez one of the marines that's his brother there what's he thinking do you suppose look at that look at that that's burt moore the man of the mustache behind him one of the 52 hostages ex-hostages [Music] one of the most interesting uh things about this coverage is uh or this ceremony is the way official and political washington has reacted to it

and how careful it has been not to intrude to keep it so low level with so many politicians knowing that they're live cameras at andrews knowing their live cameras at the white house the temptation must have been great to have intruded but they have resisted the temptation well at least for now roger there are 6 000

00:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=1560s)

at least for now roger there are 6 000 people invited to stand on the south lawn of the white house this afternoon but that's they're there mostly as backdrop to fill the empty space well in a town where politics is the lifeblood that's the uh that's the lopez daughter i believe that's his little nine-year-old sister i believe sister she she was the one who said over and over how much she missed her big brother how often she would be captured by the cameras very cheerfully talking about how much she loved him john dancy or steve delaney what's that champ that's going on they're shouting welcome home welcome home and much more welcome chant than the former hostages heard for most of the time they were in tehran a lot of chatting in tehran [Music] we just saw something awfully nice out here i think it was lopez the young marine one of his little sisters just burst out through the lines where she wasn't supposed to go and jumped about as high as would qualify her for the u.s olympic team right into his arms and they just sat there and went around and around and around in a tight hook for a few seconds down on the ground again and back to the cage to see the rest of the family this happens every third or fourth time that one of these freed americans comes toward the holding area where the extended family members have been waiting some of them just can't stand to wait that extra few seconds when they arrived the other day john the manager of the director of the stewart air force base who was in charge of keeping the things going said that the emotion of that first embrace was so intense that he was unable to watch it he had to turn his back he said he felt like an intruder

00:28:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=1680s)

i think that's what vice president bush was saying a little while ago here and and uh some of his people were pointing out to me that the staging of this getting to this point by way of algeria by way of beast button by the way of stewart air base and the experience of the military reservation at west point is staging up slowly building them up to this kind of emotional hit which many people believe if they had tried to do in one landing without the intermediate points would have been overwhelmingly just too much for any of them to stand steve this is going to be an emotional day for everybody here this is probably the biggest outpouring of emotion that they will see the hostages said at one point that what they wanted was nothing so much as privacy but that privacy is being denied them at least for this one day because they are in their own way they're symbols of what we believe we are as a nation and the qualities that we represent freedom courage bravery and they're also symbols of the relationship that all of us have had with them over the past 14 and a half months this is a chance for the people along the parade route to say we kept the faith there's plane number four the last of the airlift from stuart airport in new york near west point coming in now to andrews air force base near washington this is the last of the four and in a moment or two that plane will be on the ground and we will see uh the doors open and vice president bush what do you say welcome back well we're gonna pick up this interview right now please they're home but the emotions and the different emotions of the families is something to behold and you know the common purpose is that they all had a good good reunions with their families with their do you feel intrusive do you feel interesting a little bit a little bit but on the other hand i think it's appropriate that there is a uh

00:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=1800s)

appropriate that there is a uh some official welcome and of course president reagan will be greeting them in what i know will be a very emotional official welcome there but i i've tried to get a feel as to whether that we're intruding i don't think so and i it's just such a joyous day for everyone there's really nothing much you can say very little very little look at this look at this waiting for the plane i mean that's spectacular i better get back over there last one well that's that's the fourth plane coming in and uh it'll be taxing into position we'll return to uh to watch this last load come into andrews in just a moment and we're back at andrews air force base now the fourth plane has arrived from stuart airport in new york there you see it coming in now three

others have preceded it carrying former hostages and their immediate families and in the crowd here at andrews are what we are calling their extended families cousins and aunts and friends and other people here to get the first look at their loved ones they've had in 14 and a half months first eyeball look at any rate these are some of those people we're describing now who are waiting for the last of the former hostages john yes seems to me adding to something that uh john dancy said a few minutes ago that these people are seen as symbols symbols perhaps of a renewed patriotism in this country you know for 444 days in iran they were symbols of iran's hatred for the united states and it seems to me that a lot of these people don't think of themselves as symbols or as celebrities or as heroes they just think of

00:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=1920s)

or as heroes they just think of themselves as ordinary americans and would probably like to go back to their private lives as soon as possible well that press conference they had this morning somebody was talking about was asked do you think that you're a hero and they and they went into one of the former hostages went into a very complicated explanation in which he did not use the word hero i think they're a little embarrassed with hero and this is part of what the psychologists and psychiatrists are telling us that some of them have a little problem with the fact that especially the servicemen that they were captured and taken this is something they'll have to work out of their systems it's also true that when we at home call them heroes we're making ourselves feel better because we felt so inadequate for so long and we're so powerless to get them out but i agree with you roger i think that's a very important point that not for these people here but around the country the yellow ribbons that we see in the united states today are in a sense a reaction to the sense of frustration and importance that we've had for so long when the united states was in effect held hostages for these 52 americans uh yesterday at the white house the president's people leaked the fact that this afternoon the president will say in his brief remarks that that no nation will ever again be able to seize our overseas personnel with impunity you know no specific uh details about how that policy will change so that such future seizures might be prevented and president carter on the former president carter on his way to a caribbean vacation said today that any future seizure should be greeted with a very strong reaction but that's a annoying problem facing this administration is what you do to beef up your overseas embassies to prevent a determined mob or

00:34:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=2042s)

a determined mob or crowd or whatever from taking over unless you can make it an armed camp well as jimmy carter said the other day and i think he's right there is no embassy that any country has in any other country that can be defended forever if the host country doesn't cooperate what the american government the new administration is going to have to deal with is how do you retaliate what do you do if americans are seized this is the fourth plane and obviously it's bringing shrieks of joy and tears of joy andrews air force base is the home of the 89th military airlift division which basically is is there to haul vips around the country this is where the president comes and goes and ranking members of the government and also patients from time to time this is the official government entrance by air into washington she can hardly stand here they come now the vice president will move up and take his place at the head of the [Music] receiving line george lewis you want to help us down the stairs we'll do our best here

00:36:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=2161s)

see a lot of air force types but i don't recognize any of them hear the crowd chanting in the background welcome home that's schaefer yes thomas schaefer he had a beard during his uh a period of captivity in iran which makes it a little hard to recognize george isn't he the one they tried to uh they tried to protect his identity since he was the senior military officer among the hostages that's right john they tried to do that with a lot of the senior people because they thought that because of their status they would be singled out for extra harsh treatment by the iranians and we're looking at one yeah i'm sure we know we know we feel like we know you know welcome back thank you very much [Music] thank you [Music] waving from the ramp [Music] that's philip ward from culpepper virginia man who just gave the v side ward's family has been very

private throughout this whole thing they got their hometown newspaper in cold pepper to remain entirely silent about their status throughout the entire seizure so that their children would not be singled out at school robert odey the oldest of the hostages 65 behind him barry rosie

00:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=2280s)

65 behind him barry rosie from brooklyn press new york shay there's rosen's family there waving at him rosen's wife barbara behind them [Music] robert odey had a heart condition he wasn't supposed to be there his family was terribly worried about him he was just almost passing through on temporary assignment and his wife was really distraught when he was taken [Music] and barry rosen during the siege complained of heart palpitations his family was worried about him [Music] alexander [Music] of colonel thomas schaefer this is the speaker maureen is rodney's sick [Music] hello [Music]

00:40:04 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=2404s)

my wife right here you very much [Music] we're still with you there's just not much to say at a moment like this so that's david raider there air force uniform over christmas he thanked the people at his local church in virginia for putting yellow ribbons all over the chapel and his wife said she found a great deal of solace and comfort in that church and

00:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=2520s)

solace and comfort in that church and the other members of the congregation who helped support the family through the crisis it's barry rosen again he will uh be riding in a ticker tape parade in new york city later this week uh the government the federal government didn't want new york to have that parade went ahead and said they're going to have it anyway and at least barry rosen will be in it the expressive woman in the white suit is a member of mr rosen's family we don't know precisely but she's really waving him over she hasn't gotten to hug him yet she will though somebody lifted over the ropes but she's back in place now there she is oh it's scott rose that's sickman's family um pardon us wrong identification [Music] now would that be uh george would that be the sergeant sickman girlfriend who said on the telephone that she had put on weight and weighed 200 pounds and he joked and said well he weighed 300 and they were teasing each other about i believe that could very well be there's jerry platkin from sherman oaks california and his wife debbie [Music] and there's elizabeth ann swift one of the two women who were held in the embassy for the whole 444 days this is john dancy i've been standing up here on my perch at this platform watching what happens after these enthusiastic greetings are over

00:44:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=2642s)

these enthusiastic greetings are over people almost invariably little family groups drift off together to stand around talking it looks like an evening after a church social as people drift out of doors and stand around in groups talking to each other that's what's been going on after these greetings have taken place and right now people are beginning to file out of the enclosure and onto buses which will take them into the motorcade john chancellor yes the motorcade is due to leave at about two o'clock from uh andrews which is about an hour and ten minutes from now somewhere in that vicinity so they're all down and there you see the proceedings proceeding going ahead the buses are ready and people embracing we'll be back with more coverage of this welcome after a word from our stations return with more coverage after these messages from your local stations this is the nbc television network nbc news coverage of the return to washington d.c or the arrival in washington d.c of the former hostages picks up again with the last plane load families now on the ground as john dancy reported a moment ago they come down off the plane are greeted by vice president bush and his wife and the leaders of the congress the speaker and the various leaders and then peel off in groups of two or three to renew love and friendship and uh waiting for the last group to arrive this is a family of uh mr kennedy [Music] there you see the families going over to the uh to the buses which they were bored shortly and i would suspect that they'll be on their way in this motorcade very shortly the police escort is lined up ready to lead them in through the suitland parkway over this 12-mile route down to the white house

00:46:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=2761s)

down to the white house well that motorcade is now planned for i guess an hour and a half they've slowed it down so that uh if they're leaving uh within the next few minutes and are not due at the white house until quarter two quarter three and they've got an hour out there at the air base already don't they and it's an hour and a half into town i'm sure roger that's how slow it'll be because the crowds expect uh numbering two hundred thousand with a an easy uh time-off policy with the federal workers 15 buses brought out here by the dc transit company the planners of the uh motorcade including the local police have prohibited a camera truck from being along with the buses for fear the truck couldn't move as quickly as the buses wanted to at least on the suitland parkway but once they get into town and hit the populated part of the city the motorcade will slow down to a more stately pace at about 10 or 15 miles an hour and it will follow along the uh the traditional inaugural route so there's where you can see now the motorcade and while they're walking over to it we'll be back and back at andrews air force base now the vice president and the speaker of the house and all the other dignitaries and members of the cabinet are um through with their formal welcoming chores here and you can see the buses in the background this motorcade will proceed into washington dc at about 50 miles an hour it'll be a slow motorcade through

00:48:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=2881s)

slow motorcade through along supreme parkway a beautiful road into the district of columbia and nbc will be cutting in from time to time during its regularly scheduled programming to show you pictures of the progress of this slow-moving motorcade and of course when it does get to the district of columbia we will resume full coverage that we think will be about two o'clock this afternoon eastern standard time or roughly an hour from now that's the navy band in the background if we've got the time maybe we could get tom pettit to give us a quick look at the parade route and he's i think the viewers here are set there is a veritable sea of yellow ribbon among people in washington getting ready to greet the former hostages this is the exact route that president reagan's motorcade took one week ago today under the motto a great new beginning when the 15 buses come down here an hour or so from now it will be a great new ending as i say these people are waiting even though it's raining a little bit these people are waiting because they feel that they must express their emotions too roger tom washington very frequently is isolated from the rest of the country and we are in washington accused frequently of not realizing what the rest of the country feels but i assure you just watching this monitor today and the outpouring at andrews at least that washington is at one with the rest of the country yes i think that's true perhaps for a change and i can certainly say for myself having watched these very very moving pictures from andrews air force base that those of us are able to share in some emotion that we seldom see in this city well it's a matter of a

00:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3000s)

in this city well it's a matter of a great uh unifying experience today to have everyone all over the country share something like this and it's something the that not only to uh the outgoing administration but also a great help to the incoming administration that this whole period of transition is really bathed in this feeling of warmth and uh love and unity well they are they are landed this is their last big ceremonial day roger well it's uh it's a time when uh president reagan can begin to set his administration on a new course with a feeling that that he will so we'll be back in about an hour with interruptions in between this has been an nbc news special report and has come to you from washington this is the nbc television network we interrupt our regular program schedule to bring you the following nbc news special report on the homecoming of the former hostages home are the brave here from washington our nbc news correspondents roger mudd and john chancellor good afternoon from washington dc a city which has seen so many parades over the past so many years this one is probably the happiest one we've ever had there have been inaugural parades properly staged and dressed with the military we've had funeral parades but this parade is truly a parade of joy john

00:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3120s)

is truly a parade of joy john let's have a look at the parade you can see various buildings in washington dc there the buses are on i think canal street now having made the trip in from andrews air force base where they were met by the vice president and other government dignitaries and then united with the members of what they call their extended families they flew down from west point this morning and there you see the motorcade going slowly past i believe the rayburn building is in the background on that would be the base of capitol hill there are about 13 buses with clear windows so that the people who have assembled in great numbers to see the hostages can see the hostages in the buses and wave and you can see the beginnings of a crowd that has extended throughout the district since they arrived in the district and indeed in prince george's county before they arrived in the district and this crowd will increase as the motorcade draws closer to the white house president and mrs carter and about 6 000 guests 6400 president reagan sorry about that president reagan and about 6 500 guests are waiting at the white house assembling now on the south lawn as the motorcade heads across the west front of the capitol where president reagan was inaugurated not long ago and then it will turn into pennsylvania avenue for the long ride down probably the most famous street in america called america's front street main street there's the scene from pennsylvania avenue and you can still see some of the decorations those long oblongs on the west front of the capitol were put up for the inauguration that's where ronald reagan stood there are the hostages and the their families and some of their friends 13 busloads proceeding slowly through the capitol and look at the crowds roger that is a part of the federal complex the newest

[00:54:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3241s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3241s)

part of the federal complex the newest part that has grown up in the last 10 or 15 years at the base of the hill it's in the southwest part of the city and all those workers have just simply extended their brown bag lunch hour each window of the bus is decorated with a yellow ribbon that turn is from canal street onto third that runs uh at the parallel angles to the hill they'll go five or six blocks and then take a left-hand turn on pennsylvania i ought to say to you watching the george lewis who is an expert on who these hostages are and their families and their life histories is with us and from time to time george will sing out i presume when he's able to identify one i shudder john when you identify me as an expert because we were having a little bit of a problem watching them come off the plane the marines for instance we've studied the pictures of the marines while they were in captivity they all grew long hair and mustaches very non-regulation looks and now they're back to their military appearance and in uniform some of the service people the marines the air force people the army people are a little hard to recognize at this point george we have absolute confidence and you don't worry and that's this is pennsylvania avenue from another point of view and you can see the crowds moving across an awful lot of people carrying american flags great patriotic occasion today here in washington under cloudy skies with a little rain in the air not cold did you notice the route number on the front of the buses on the sign on the front of the buses it says 52r i think that's a non-existent route in washington that's a new route for today only george actually there will be 72 hostages represented here today as well as the eight americans who died in the desert trying to rescue them 52 hostages who have been released a hostage mr queen who was released for medical reasons earlier six who escaped thanks to help from our

[00:56:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3361s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3361s)

six who escaped thanks to help from our canadian neighbors and 13 who were released last november after the original hostages were taken that adds up to 72 people and with their families it'll be a lot more just the families and friends alone as far as the white house is concerned are 400 people looking uh to the east up pennsylvania avenue with the white house at our backs that big building in the foreground is the new east gallery of the national gallery of art and there is the shot the aerial photograph of the first bus now we're back on the ground the first bus making the turn onto pennsylvania avenue and from this point up the 1.2 miles to the white house the crowds will thicken and will break ranks obviously as they're doing now getting up as close to those buses as they can some of the turns in washington uh are so narrow that uh the local transit company has introduced a hinged bus that can make the turns but these are all the standard passenger buses that take about 50 people and the cars in between are carrying security agents and other dignitaries [Applause] [Music] most parades in washington you know are concentrating concentrated on just one person

an outgoing powerful politician or an incoming one and everybody knows who he is but all these heroes are as well known now to american parade watchers as any of the people we normally acknowledge in parades there were you know roger as you well know parades down pennsylvania avenue after the civil war there were parades

00:58:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3481s)

after the civil war there were parades after the spanish-american war after the first world war after the second world war there were parades um so that this street has been used before as a location for an outpouring of patriotic sentiments what is very interesting about this particular outpouring of patriotic sentiments is that there's an enormous reception for 52 americans who are in these buses and the focus of the nation's attention and its feelings of patriotism is just where you are today right there on pennsylvania avenue it's a something they'll be writing about in the history books for a long time this enormous outpouring of feeling on the part of the american people yellow ribbons all over the country focused on these americans who were held for 444 days so as we see this buscade swing onto pennsylvania avenue and begin uh to straighten out its line and head directly to the white house we're going to pause just for a moment and we'll be back with our coverage of the arrival in washington of our american hostages there we are on pennsylvania avenue in washington dc the buses carrying the former hostages and their families and friends making their way down the avenue now having reached or at least part of the motorcade having reached the beginning of what we call the federal triangle which you see there in the lower part of your picture with the capitol building in the background the national gallery of art the new wing a lot of people waving flags we saw a sign printed hand printed a few minutes ago saying we love you welcome home

01:00:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3602s)

a lot of people wearing anything yellow they could find although it's a rainy day and therefore justified see people in yellow slickers in that crowd i have a feeling if they'd be wearing those if it had been a sunny day the welcome back barry was obviously welcoming back barry rosen i suppose is that a good guess george [Music] the offices of the international communications agency maybe some of his co-workers with that sign up no it's not it's not no no it's further down it's at 1776 pennsylvania avenue but the uh we have not reached that part of town yet it's conceivable that barry rosen has some friends at this end of pennsylvania avenue that's the old post office you just saw there one of the monuments in victorian architecture in washington dc i wonder if we can dig tom pettit up out of that crowd tom is at the at the western uh plaza which is the newest little park in washington and located at 14th and pennsylvania which ought to put him right in the in the heart of the parade is tom available now yes roger the people here still can barely see the actual motorcade there are phalanxes of police officers on motorcycles and there are people standing in some places five six ten deep waiting to express themselves about the return of the former hostages this is the start of the national welcome to the former hostages they will pass along exactly the same route as has been said throughout the day as the presidential inauguration parade took one week ago today it's an entirely different kind of crowd here than was present a week ago most of the people are ordinary citizens who came to greet the former hostages to say something it may be different with each one and

01:02:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3721s)

may be different with each one and probably is but they are here because they want to be here for this it's a moment of drama as the motorcade approaches as the helicopters circle overhead along pennsylvania avenue and there is what one sees from the helicopter moving slowly along pennsylvania avenue from capitol hill to the white house citizens of the washington metropolitan area hands extended and in many instances hearts extended to the people who have come back tom a lot of those hostages live in the washington area and their communities like bethesda and rockville and mclean and oakton and and culpepper all are preparing uh smaller scale celebrations but just as intense and just as emotional that's that's certainly true roger that's kevin hermanning there waving to the crowd remote creek wisconsin that's quite a picture george with the yellow ribbon on the american flag he's back in uniform waving out of that bus

the v signal he's got the fix on the camera too i'm sorry but i have to share with you all my absolute shock that it was one week ago today when ronald reagan was inaugurated it seems like a month and a half so much has gone on these people coming out through algiers that same day going on to wiesbaden then to west point and now here it seems like an eternity if you think that reagan would be getting ready for his second term about now is katherine kobe one of the two women who were held all this time i think if you took the number of hours that have expired since reagan took office and divided into the number of hours the significant news events we've had since then you would have the highest news count of the last five years wouldn't you very dense you're

01:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3840s)

years wouldn't you very dense you're absolutely right in a moment that lead bus will hit pettit's position and then take a right-hand northbound turn on 15th street and then a left-hand turn on pennsylvania and swing into the white house and that's where the official presidential presidential welcome will be and judy woodruff is on hand at the north grounds of the white house judy roger i don't know whether you can see them or not but there is uh out front of the white house on pennsylvania avenue a crowd of now several thousand people who have gathered as tom pettit was was just saying spontaneously entirely without any formal organization waiting to see the freed americans arrive at the white house they're wearing yellow ribbons but they're also wearing yellow scarves and hats and jackets and their yellow signs saying welcome home and some of them with a tougher message bomb iran but they will be arriving here in a few minutes all the buses will pull up we understand in the circular driveway on the north lawn of the white house a military escort is already standing by waiting for their arrival they will go in the north portico the north entrance of the white house and we'll go inside to the blue room where they will each and everyone meet president reagan they'll spend a few minutes inside being and it will be explained to them where they will be sitting on the south grounds and then they will be taken out to the south lawn of the white house for the rest of the ceremony and that's where john palmer is standing by right now right judy there's a lot of emotion there's a lot of excitement out here on the south lawn we're expecting fully six thousand people to be gathered here members of congress of course the former hostages and their loved ones their families also charles beckwith the colonel who led the aborted raid to try to rescue the hostages he will be here with his men along with the widows of the eight american servicemen who died in that rescue attempt but this

01:06:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=3961s)

who died in that rescue attempt but this is a happy day people have been streaming in from the state department from the defense department they're lining the ropes here waiting for this very emotional ceremony a brief one but very emotional ceremony that is planning to set to get underway probably in about 30 or 40 minutes from now president reagan is expected to make very brief remarks but he is expected to issue a stern warning that if any other diplomats are taken by any group or any country that they will have the reagan administration to answer for the president has a task force looking into various economic political and military options to deal with the situation should this taking of hostages ever occur again the president in the past few days has been very emotional about this hostage issue especially when he heard of the bad treatment that many of them had received yesterday morning in the oval office there were tears in his eyes as he signed a proclamation naming this coming thursday as a day of thanksgiving for the rescue of the hostages so we're all set here people continue to stream in it's a very happy a very emotional occasion let's go now to emery king at another position here on the south grounds of the white house emery john this will be president reagan's first official ceremonial function since his inauguration last tuesday and as you said everything is set the white house even has a yellow ribbon up on the balcony and something you probably won't see as the day goes along many of the cameramen and camera crews have yellow ribbons adorning their cameras today the two platforms set up next to the presidential podium will be where the hostages will be seated following their private meeting with the president in the blue room on either side of them they will be flanked by members of their families on one side and the rescue team led by colonel charles beckwith which is right next to us we're kind of hemmed in here we'll be within shouting distance of the hostages and

as nice as as they've been about talking to reporters over the past few days it's doubtful that we'll be able to get many questions into them or at least get their responses so everything is set and the only thing we're hoping for is that it doesn't rain john i would like to take 30 seconds now

01:08:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=4082s)

john i would like to take 30 seconds now to read some names these are the names of the people who died in the desert trying to rescue the americans who are in those buses now captain richard bockey of long beach california captain charles mcmillan jr of corinton tennessee captain harold lewis of mansfield connecticut captain lynn mcintosh of valdosta georgia tech sergeant joel c mayo based at herbert air force base staff sergeant dewey johnson of east dublin georgia sergeant john d harvey of roanoke virginia and corporal george n holmes jr of pine bluff arkansas the country owes them a great debt as the hostages said this morning at their west point press conference those eight are the heroes [Music] tom pettit let's call in tom again at 14th and pennsylvania thank you roger this is a moving scene and it is akin to the photographs i remember of the liberation of paris at the end of world war ii joy love and thanks but in this case the uh those who were liberated are on the vehicles not on the ground bus number one all you need to do is listen to the people in the crowd [Music] everyone has some kind of feeling that they know these people bus number two [Applause] approaching the district building the city hall of washington d.c bus number

01:10:06 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=4206s)

[Applause] [Music] three those of course are the marines [Applause] [Music] [Applause] and they said this was going to be low-key i can't imagine anything more emotional than such spontaneity as this but it's a kind of quiet spot lady roger it's heartfelt not posed not political it is genuine and in that instance it is very nearly tangible if you stand in the middle of it [Applause] and therefore tom probably uh much more draining than a military parade would have been that's very possible these are people who went out of their way to come to downtown washington today there are people who spent a dollar or two for a 10 cent piece of yellow ribbon who purchased new flags just for the occasion who have stood here in the sometime chill and damp weather for this moment for their reasons and now they're expressing them the buses are stopped awaiting the turn no doubt up toward the white house just four blocks from here uniformly we see the thumbs up sign from the hostages we recognize from having seen them on television

01:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=4320s)

them on television in other instances it's a kind of gentle wave [Applause] and from the buildings alongside pennsylvania avenue even the confetti is yellow today [Applause] this morning tom bruce langen was asked what it would be like not to be on the front page anymore he said he could not wait to get off the front page and resume his normal life well in some instances i suspect that's more than true with all the former hostages and their family members and that this national tribute perhaps marks an end or at least the beginning of an end of the prominence they never sought in the first place well they're getting closer to a moment of culmination when they meet the president at the white house those buses will be turning into 15th street before long we'll pick them up when they get there next to the treasury before they turn into pennsylvania avenue again to go to the white house we'll have that coverage after this bus number one carrying the freed american hostages is now within two or three blocks of the white house this shot is down pennsylvania looking back toward capitol hill in the distance the street in the foreground is 15th street running north and south this is pennsylvania avenue the buses have now passed that point obviously because the crowds are swirling out into the street and in a matter of oh 15 minutes or less the first bus will swing in through these gates the northwest gates of the white house at 1600 pennsylvania avenue the old inaugural stands are still there not quite knocked down yet the presidential reviewing stand from a week ago is still more or less in place but not of course being used today the buses swing into this large

01:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=4441s)

the buses swing into this large horseshoe driveway that cuts across the north lawn of the white house they'll go in the front door and will be greeted by president and mrs reagan inside the building the crowd is a little bit thinner here sidewalks are also narrower and the street is smaller here no lessening of enthusiasm that first bus john by the way carries two young men who are sort of riding shotgun as it were in the in the open door they are white house advancement well it's a white house show although they [Music] you might properly think that the department of state which for which most of these hostages worked and the international communications agency and the department of defense would uh have a lot to do with this they will be represented of course at the white house by the secretary of defense as secretary of state and the acting director of ica but the this is the white house's show today very much much of the communication between the white house and the hostages went through the state department as to what the hostages desired what sort of public welcome they wanted how much privacy they wanted and in most instances i guess the white house pretty much yielded to the request of the of the hostages and that is uh the high south lawn shot of the white house showing from a distance the stands that will take the congress and the hostage families and the foreground between the camera stand and the platform will be filled with about 4 500 employees from the state department and the defense department who have been given free tickets to come over and fill the grounds to make the occasion as warm and festive as possible

01:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=4560s)

occasion as warm and festive as possible while we see that we might as well go down the the people who are attending the list the families and extended families are 400 the white house senior staff will be there 625 members of congress 20 cabinet members 35 people from the rescue force that's colonel charlie beckwith and his men 35 next of 10 kin 19 people who had returned earlier 250 special guests from the state department the defense department and the communications agency uh distinguished guests now the defense department in addition to that gets to send 2 500 of its uniformed personnel and civilians and the state department gets to send 2 000 and the international communications agency 500 and all that adds up to about 6 400 people who will be on the south lawn of the white house today and after that brief ceremony when the president speaks and the charges bruce langan responds about 600 of them will be invited inside and their first bus making the kind of tricky passage through the northwest gate of the white house that's a very tight squeeze those gates are controlled electronically during the day and of course that's the guard house there and every time you go into the white house you've got to show a special pass and the door clicks and then unlocks and you walk in but today they're wide open judy woodruff is our reporter on the north lawn judy yes roger as you can see the first bus has just pulled clear of pennsylvania avenue and onto the circular driveway here on the north lawn of the white house i just heard you say that this may not be the largest crowd but it's certainly among the most enthusiastic and among the most patient some of the reporters and white house staff people who are out here are applauding and and waving as the bus pulls up toward the north portico

01:18:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=4681s)

toward the north portico these are white house employees employees in the executive office buildings standing along the sidewalk here along with the military escort standing at attention along this driveway as each bus pulls up there are flags being waived in this crowd the crowd just continues to be enthusiastic as each bus pulls up alongside the gate and the hostage the former hostages and their family members look out and wave and it's it's it is truly an emotional moment uh judy on our monitor back here in the office we just saw the vice president and mrs bush get off bus number one so they were right in there with them the whole time yes they were roger they will be part of the official escort for the former hostages and their families the vice president will walk with them inside to the blue room where they will meet with president reagan the president and his wife will not be coming out to the north portico they will not come outside to meet to meet their their guests they will see them inside so there will be a private welcome for each of them why is that judy why wouldn't the president come out well the the white house uh white house officials have told us that they they want it to be a private moment that uh it they realize it may be emotional for for so many of them freed hostages and and they wanted that to be uh outside the view of reporters and and tv cameras which

are obviously quite prevalent here today we've got uh there must be hundreds of uh of camera crews here representing television stations all over the country in addition to the of course the major networks that are represented here you know judy it's uh i think we have to

01:20:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=4801s)

you know judy it's uh i think we have to keep in mind that these people many of them come from military families there is a there is a military heritage in in the armed forces of the united states sons serving after fathers did after grandfathers did and for them this is a moment of special poignance coming to be welcomed by the commander-in-chief for a military family it means a lot more also a kind a moment of irony because the these buses are pulling up a few hundred feet away from the oval office where former president jimmy carter spent many hours and weeks and months agonizing over this hostage crisis and certainly it was an issue that helped defeat him in his bid for reelection and it's somewhat ironic that he is not here today that he is uh on his way to a vacation in the uh in the virgin islands and not here and part of this big welcoming ceremony this is the secretary of state alexander haig followed by a coat holder and some the buses are continuing to pull a pull up along the circular driveway somehow finding a place to park i never realized there was so much room here judy uh we're going to take a pause here for our stations and then we'll be back after we give our stations an opportunity to put on some messages we'll return with more coverage after these messages from your local station this is the nbc television network this is nbc news again covering the arrival at the white house of the 52 freed american hostages the u.s charges de faire from the u.s embassy in tehran bruce langen has just come through the north portico of the white house

01:22:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=4921s)

michael matrenko these are the people who are very close to the hostages or reasonably close to the hostages you see going in now wives cousins some very close friends have been invited as members of what they call the their extended families what they will do is these people the ones who are not hostages will pass through the white house go downstairs to the um through the diplomatic entrance of the white house on the south side and out onto the south lawn and while the hostages themselves or former hostages will be taken into the blue room where they will be given a briefing on what's expected of them later this afternoon and they will also have their first meeting with the president of the united states judy woodruff if you can hear me are all the buses there now yes they're all all 13 or however many there are there it's hard for us to see all of them now but they are all now parked or getting into final position here in the circular driveway in front of the white house the first few buses have pretty much unloaded their passengers and we are just now beginning to see the passengers on the last buses begin to get off and to walk inside through the north portico i believe that's a shot yes you can see them filing up the stairs and i just heard john explain that once they get inside they will separate the family members will go downstairs and on out to the south lawn the freed hostages will meet with president reagan in the blue room and then judy as i understand that the president is only going to speak for say two or three minutes that's right he we don't have a text of of his remarks but we do know that besides and this has been reported several times already today but we know that in addition to welcoming the freed hostages to the white house

01:24:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=5041s)

the freed hostages to the white house telling them how glad we are that that they are home he will make what we are told is a forceful statement he will say that if american diplomats are ever treated again the way these people have been treated that his administration will not not let that go unpunished and but it will be a brief statement we're told it will not be a detailed uh laying out of a new policy that however we we also know that the administration right now is in the process of reviewing its policy toward international terrorism and perhaps in the next few weeks we'll hear more in detail about that today it will be what we are told is a simple and yet a forceful statement it will last three minutes or so there will be a minute or so response from bruce langan a final remark from the president and we are told that after the national anthem is played that the president is expected to ask everyone to join in in singing god bless america and after that of course they will

go back inside and there will be a reception i think we ought to point out that bruce langan who was the highest ranking american diplomat in tehran when the embassy was seized and the hostages taken he was charged affair has given an example of how diplomats ought to behave it seems to me bruce langan occupies a special position in this group he was held for a long time at the foreign ministry not with many of the other hostages and since his return he has done a very an outstanding job of keeping his diplomatic manners and poise about him and he's been a spokesman for this group and he not only deserves because of his rank to respond to the president's remarks but because of his performance that's john limbert there john you know

01:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=5160s)

that's john limbert there john you know you were talking about bruce langan yesterday he was asked if he thought the u.s should honor its agreement with the iranians the the agreement that freed the hostages and he said yes he thought the u.s should honor that agreement because if we didn't keep our word we would in effect be operating under the same principles or lack of principles that have guided the iranians well also george it seems to me without trying to take sides in it that the an american president gave his word on that accord with the iranians and i don't see how the united states can take back a president's word even though people disagree with it and yet you had a man of such stature as george ball a former under secretary of state or deputy secretary wasn't he yeah writing the other day and then the public prince that the agreement was signed under duress and is therefore not valid under international law we have no cause at all to obey it well we'll be hearing a great deal of discussion about that in the days to come but let's see what's happening on the south lawn of the white house the part of the white house that is not seen from pennsylvania avenue that's where this ceremony will take place and that's where john palmer is right now there you see the south lawn of the white house right john we we have a compliment now almost a full compliment of about 6 000 people gathered here on the south lawn someone said a while ago this is probably more people than have gathered here since the last easter egg roll a very enthusiastic crowd a lot of yellow a lot of yellow ribbons and signs one little boy has a little sign and he says you're home now smile god bless you the military color guard the guard of honor has now taken its place on the back steps of the white house over the diplomatic reception entrance most of members of congress have now taken their places here we have about a thousand reporters and photographers gathered around the army band is now playing this is your country the stage is all set in just a few minutes now we expect to have the families of the

01:28:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=5280s)

expect to have the families of the former hostages they will be coming out of the diplomatic reception entrance and gathered in a spot very close to where the the hostage families and the former hostage themselves are going to be gathered at another vantage point here on the crowded delightful emotional and exciting south lawn of the white house we have emery king emery what's going on in your section well john up until a moment ago there was a nervous sense of anticipation but word has spread now that the hostages are indeed arriving at the white house and are set to come in any moment that was of course made clear by the striking of the van colonel charles beckwith the gentleman who led the iranian rescue attempt last year you see standing there he's standing what about 15 feet away from us however we haven't been able to get in touch with him or talk to him he and a full compliment of his men are there too the honor guard is on the balcony with 52 flags 52 more flags adorn the two platforms on either side of the presidential platform where the hostages will be send it are seated now let's go back to roger mudd emery the white house press office says very proudly that this event has attracted more coverage than anything since the pope's a visit here several years ago we'll be back in just a moment as nbc news continues its coverage and so the with the white house south lawn filled up with almost all of the people but not yet the most important people who will be there this afternoon the welcoming of the released american hostages continues in the nation's capital they just below the south portico there you can see toward the bottom of your screen in front of the cleared area the seats that will be occupied by the hostages or former hostages they will come out the diplomatic entrance of the white house which is the round door at the very bottom of the white house there toward the lower third of your picture

01:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=5400s)

toward the lower third of your picture and divide into two groups of 26 or more each actually there are 72 uh people involved in the hostage taking who will be here today they will then sit on those seats in front of american flags and the president will come out and address the the gathering uh that's the scene now john palmer is our man on the south lawn john are you there yes yes john i am the families about half it looks like now have taken their positions just to the left of as you face the back of the white house and the diplomatic reception entrance have taken their place they will be standing uh just beside the seated position where the former hostages will be positioned the hostages we are told have no former hostages the freed americans have no assigned seats they will be taking their place divided half and half with half of them sitting on one side of the where the president will speak and another on the other position there you see now some of the families and some of the members of congress that have been standing out here for 15 or 20 minutes now gathered and waiting for mrs reagan's appearance out here that will be really the signal of the the beginning of this very brief but what we expect to be a very emotional ceremony when mrs reagan comes out accompanied by vice president and mrs bush shortly thereafter the white house announcer will read the names of the 52 freed hostages including richard queen who as we know returned some months ago because of illness returned here to the united states he is being included with the 52 today so they'll be the reading of the names and following that the announcement will be ladies and gentlemen the president of the united states and the 53 hostages and the president will come out again and make a few brief remarks here we see the door of the diplomatic reception entrance and these are more of the families the extended families as they're known

01:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=5520s)

extended families as they're known the wives and brothers and sisters and uncles and aunts all of those that the former hostages wanted to be here for this this very very exciting and important event here on the south lawn of the white house right now upstairs on the state floor of the white house in the blue room the former hostages are gathered there waiting getting some instructions as to exactly what is going to take place in this program more people are coming in all the time georgia they'll see the marines there uh coming in though that's yeah that's the marine detachment from the u.s embassy that's the marine detachment from the the u.s embassy we're looking there i think at the yes that's out on the north portico of the white house again president reagan is going to have very very brief remarks out here today we were told yesterday by jim brady the new white house press secretary that the president was going to go out of his way to assure these former hostages most of them career diplomats in the foreign service that their their careers are safe that promotions will come along as expected and like anyone else who has gone through a very frightening experience like this they are concerned about their futures how they gonna be able to support their families will some people look and say well they've gone through this experience maybe they wouldn't be such good foreign service employees or workers or diplomats after this the president heard about their concerns from talking with doctors in wiesbaden and we are told the president tends to personally assure them whether he'll do that publicly or privately that their careers are safe and that the united states government very much wants their services in the future he's also as has been mentioned plans to issue a warning that any future taking of hostages will be met with what have been termed swift and decisive actions on the part of the administration there you see the yellow ribbon up on the truman balcony the upper balcony over the diplomatic reception entrance

01:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=5640s)

over the diplomatic reception entrance we have out here the various services represented the marine corps the army the navy and the coast guard this is pretty much the scene that we have every time there is a an official greeting for a head of state but there will be no 21 gun salute there will be no cannon fire and there will be no trooping of the colors or review of the guard otherwise this is pretty much the setup except a lot larger than when a head of state comes here to the south lawn of the white house we're now approaching the time in just a few minutes when the ceremony will actually get underway emery king is down in that

massive crowd over in the press stand over there emery what's happening there well we can see on the driveway john that various white house staffers are watching the families come out of the south door waiting any indication that some of them are hostages of course they'll have to wait a while before the hostages are introduced all of their names will be read off alphabetically and then there will be a formal introduction of president reagan and president reagan and the hostages will all come out together we also we also understand that uh after the president has spoken he will make a formal presentation to bruce langan on behalf of the hostages and later inside and the blue room again in private the president will give each of the hostages a gift which i understand gentlemen is a miniature flag and perhaps a little engraved box with something inside and we don't know what that is as of yet john chancellor uh thank you emery we're waiting now for the next uh chapter in this playlist to unfold and when the rest of the families and friends have come out then the next item will be the appearance of mrs reagan and mrs bush we'll be back with more coverage after this those are the colorful strong pictures from the south portico of the white house where everyone is in place awaiting the announcement that president reagan and 53 hostages are to take their place on the stand to

01:36:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=5761s)

are to take their place on the stand to be greeted by the government and by the country roger if if i may be permitted an observation you know a number of months ago when richard queen was released he said he felt like rip van winkle a man who woke up after 20 years to find his country had changed dramatically here these people were held for 444 days the flow of news to them was very restricted and now here they are 53 brave americans thomas l ahern of wisconsin claire barnes of virginia william belk of washington robert bluecker of arkansas donald cook of ohio william dougherty of new york robert a angelman of texas william a gallegos of colorado dwayne l gillette of pennsylvania bruce w german of pennsylvania alan b goliczynski of maryland john e graves of virginia joseph m hall of oregon kevin j hermanning of wisconsin donald r homan of california leland holland of illinois michael howland of pennsylvania charles jones jr of michigan malcolm kelp of virginia moorhead kennedy of the district of columbia william keough jr of massachusetts stephen w kirkley of arkansas kate l kobe of iowa

01:38:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=5883s)

kate l kobe of iowa frederick l kupke of indiana l bruce langan of minnesota stephen m lauterbach of ohio gary e lee of virginia paul e lewis of illinois john w limbert of the district of columbia james m lopez of arizona john d mckeel of texas michael j matrinco of pennsylvania jerry j meal of pennsylvania michael e muller of nebraska bert c moore of ohio richard h moorefield of california paul needham of nebraska robert odie of arizona gregory a persinger of delaware jerry plotkin of new york richard i queen of maine regis reagan of pennsylvania david rader of wisconsin barry m rosen of new york william b royer jr of texas thomas e schaffer of new york charles scott of pennsylvania don allen sharer of indiana rodney v sickman of maryland joseph subic of michigan elizabeth a swift of the district of columbia victor l tomseth of oregon and philip ward of virginia

01:40:20 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=6020s)

uh there's the house speaker thomas p o'neill jr other members of the house leadership it's a canadian ambassador and the british ambassador nicholas henderson joint chiefs of staff and the algerian ambassador who was a great help in this all of the diplomats from countries that helped the united states during this long crisis and a long day for the hostages roger a lot of emotion sites they never expected to see there's the secretary of defense and the president pro tem of the senate looking quite colorful strom thurmond the majority leader howard baker the minority leader senator byrd looking very patriotic red white and blue he wears that red vest i think four out of seven days a week he loves it

01:42:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=6121s)

loves it the next event of course is the the president himself and the hostages former hostages the white house calls them freed hostages in its publications john the state department was calling them returnees when they first landed in this country i guess i don't know what we're going to do for a new label i think released hostages is probably as good as anything else returnees has a terrible bureaucratic clang about it yes [Music] returnees parents 52 closed parenthesis yes returnees is part of the whole bureaucracy it seems to me you recall that when we saw the hostages appear in the airport uh airport in algiers when they left the head for beast button everybody from a to k was told to get on one airplane and until to get in alphabetically these i believe are some of the men who tried to rescue the hostages these are the uh people of colonel charlie beckworth's special force blue light and uh they were invited to the ceremonies today they're the people who got closest there's mrs reagan now and mrs bush just behind her the other day mrs reagan was said to have wept openly when she and her husband greeted the hostage [Music] families [Music]

01:44:04 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=6244s)

[Music] so my guess is that the vice president was telling the majority leader what it was like to be on that lean bus through the forest through the sea of yellow ribbons that greeted the motorcade as it came down through the district of columbia the president at the moment is in the white house in the blue room with the 53 counting richard queen of released hostages we're now waiting for them and him to come out everything has gone so smoothly and so much like clockwork that i would think the only delay would be that president reagan and those hostages are [Music] lingering and there's the signal the president should be coming out in the moment somebody's belongs to that code i don't know which one [Music] ladies and gentlemen the president of the united states and the 53 freed americans [Music] [Applause] [Music]

01:46:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=6361s)

[Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause] oh [Music] oh [Music] ladies and gentlemen our national anthem [Music]

01:48:16 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=6496s)

foreign [Applause] [Music] so [Music] [Applause] oh [Music] oh [Music] thank you thank you man [Music] thank you

01:50:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=6601s)

cardinal cook thank you i think for delivering this weather we had been promised showers we're most grateful welcome to the ambassadors of our friends in neighboring countries who are here today and i can think of no better way to let you know how nancy and i feel about your presence here today than to say on behalf of us of the vice president and barbara the senators the members of congress the members of the cabinet and all of our fellow citizens these simple words welcome home you be seated please you are home and believe me you are welcome if my remarks were a sermon my text would be lines from the 126th psalm we were like those who dream now our mouth is filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy the lord has done great things for us we are glad you've come home to a people who for 444 days suffered the pain of your imprisonment prayed for your safety and most importantly shared your determination that the spirit of free men and women is not a fit subject for barter you've represented under great stress the highest traditions of public service your conduct is symbolic of the millions of professional diplomats military personnel and others who have rendered service to their country we're now aware of the conditions under which you were imprisoned though now is not the time to review every abhorrent detail of your cruel

01:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=6720s)

every abhorrent detail of your cruel confinement believe me we know what happened truth may be a rare commodity today in iran it's alive and well in america [Music] by no choice of your own you've entered the ranks of those who throughout our history have undergone the ordeal of imprisonment the crew of the pueblo

the prisoners in two world wars and in korea and vietnam and like those others you are special to us you fulfilled your duty as you saw it and now like the others thank god your home and our hearts are full of gratitude i'm told that sergeant lopez here put up a sign in his cell a sign that normally would have been torn down by those guards but this one was written in spanish and his guards didn't know that viva varoja blanco azul means long live the red white and blue they they may not understand what that means in iran but we do sergeant lopez and you filled our hearts with pride muchas gracias two days ago nancy and i met with your families here at the white house we know that you were lonely during that dreadful period of captivity but you were never alone your wives and children your mothers and dads your brothers and sisters were so full of prayers and love for you that whether you were conscious of it or not it must have sustained you during some of the worst times no power on earth could prevent them from doing that

01:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=6840s)

from doing that their courage endurance and strength were of heroic measure and they're admired by all of us but to get down now to more mundane things in case you have a question about your personal futures you'll probably have less time to rest than you'd like while you were on your way to germany i signed a hiring freeze in the federal government in other words we need you your country needs you and your bosses are panting to have you back on the job i'll not be so foolish as to say forget what you've been through you never will but turn the page and look ahead and do so knowing that for all who serve their country whether in the foreign service the military or as private citizens freedom is indivisible your freedom and your individual dignity are much cherished those henceforth in the representation of this nation will be accorded every means of protection that america can offer let's let terrorists be aware that when the rules of international behavior are violated our policy will be one of swift and effective retribution we hear it said that we live in an era of limit to our powers we'll let it also be understood there are limits to our patients now i'm sure that you'll want to know that with us here today our families of the eight heroic men who gave their lives in the attempt to

01:56:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=6962s)

who gave their lives in the attempt to affect your rescue greater glory hath no man than that he lay down his life for another and with us also are colonel beckwith and some of the men who did return from that mission we asked god special healing for those who suffered wounds and discomfort to those who lost loved ones to them to you and to your families again welcome from all america and thank you for making us proud to be [Applause] americans and now ladies and gentlemen i call on to speak for this wonderful group of returnees bruce langen deputy chief of mission in tehran mr [Applause] langan mr president mrs reagan members of the cabinet vice president mr bush i think i've got that out of order a priority in protocol terms members of the diplomatic corps are here and all you beautiful people out there i'm not sure i'm capable of this after that emotionally draining but beautiful experience that all of us have just had on the streets of this magnificent city mr president i hope you were watching tv because i don't think any of us americans have ever seen anything quite like it quite so spontaneous quite so beautiful in terms of the best qualities of our people and we are deeply grateful for it

01:58:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=7082s)

and we are deeply grateful for it to present our fight flight to freedom is now complete thanks to the prayers and good will of countless millions of people not just in this country but all around the world the assistance of those many countries and governments who understood the values and principles that were at stake in this crisis the love and affection of our countrymen from all those tens of thousands out there on the streets today [Music] to that lady that we saw standing on a hillside as we came in from andrews all alone with no sign no one around her holding her hand to her heart the enveloping love and affection of small town america of the kind we witnessed in that wonderful two-day stop in new york state west point and its environs and last but not least on this flight to freedom the united states air force on freedom one mr president i give you now 52

americans supplemented by 53rd this today richard queen sitting over here overjoyed in reunion with our families the real heroes in this crisis [Applause] 53 americans proud to rejoin their professional colleagues who had made this flight to freedom earlier our six

02:00:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=7202s)

flight to freedom earlier our six colleagues who came here with the great cooperation and friendship of our canadian friends and our 13 who came earlier i give you now 53 americans proud as i said earlier today to record their undying respect and affection for the families of those eight brave eight men who gave their lives so that we might be free 53 of us proud today this afternoon also to see and to meet with some of those families and colonel beckwith and some of those who came back 53 americans who will always have a love affair with this country and with who join with you in a prayer of thanksgiving for the way in which this crisis has strengthened the spirit and resilience and strength that is the mark of a true truly free society mr president we've seen a lot of signs along the road here and up in new york they are marvelous signs as is the spirit and enthusiasm that accompanies this we call we've been calling a celebration of freedom they are signs that have not been ordered they are spontaneous sincere signs that reflect the true feelings of the hearts of those who hold them even those i suppose like irs welcomes you which we saw today as we came into town and another one that said government workers welcome you back to work well we're ready

02:02:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=7321s)

there was another sign that says said and i think that says it as well as any the best as far as we're concerned the best things in life are free but even better than that was a sign that we saw as we left west point today along a superhighway up there that someone had hastily put up and the world will be better for this we pray mr president that this will be so [Music] mr president in very simple words that come from the hearts of all of us it is good to be back thank you america and god bless all of you thank you very much [Applause] thank you this is a flag in this case bearing your name and it is a symbol i will give to you now because all the others you will each receive one when we get inside the building and each one of you will have a flag symbolic of the 53 that are here for you in your honor and now nancy come on upbeat i think now a fit ending for all of this

02:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=7440s)

i think now a fit ending for all of this would be for all of us to participate in singing god bless america [Music] stand beside [Music] from the mountains [Music] thank you god bless you oh [Music]

02:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=7560s)

[Music] huh [Music] ah [Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause] my [Music] oh [Music] so this brief really low-key ceremony is over now at the white house and the troops are at attention preparing to march off the south lawn of the white house the crowds are still in place the president and the hostages have gone inside the white house where there will be a reception lasting for an hour or so at which time the president is expected to make his presentation i think of a rose rosewood box containing a flag

02:08:10 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=7690s)

[Music] the hostages and their families will remain in washington that is most of them this evening and then tomorrow many of them will begin the slow slide off the front page and off the newscasts and try to resume their lives after an easy period of adjustment president reagan this afternoon assured them that their bosses were dying to have them back at work because the first thing he'd done as president was to put a freeze on hiring most of them obviously are anxious to resume normality as soon as possible as widely predicted because of leaks from the senior staff and at the white house the president did this afternoon issue his

warning to terrorists that if they violate rules of conduct international rules of conduct american retribution will be quote swift and effective all right i want to ask john palmer who's uh on a on a high platform on the south lawn to uh

02:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=7800s)

uh report what he sees john roger was a very emotional scene on two occasions during this brief ceremony out here one was when president reagan talked about the eight americans who gave their lives at desert one and the aborted raid you can't say that there wasn't a dry eye on the south lawn but people were very moved by that and they were they were very quiet they were very moved i think by this entire summer ceremony here because when you when you look around and see the thousands of people that were here those that are not members of congress and what have you but just uh the people that came through the gates these are people who worked with many of these hostages who have been very closely connected with this whole tragedy for the past 14 months and they were here for this happy ending people from the defense department and people from the state department they were here for a purpose and they were very deeply moved by what happened the other thing was the the singing i think of god bless america so many people joined in and that was really a joining together of this this whole afternoon this beautiful afternoon i feel personally very privileged to have been here to to have this view to have had this feeling roger within the next 30 minutes after the conclusion of the reception in the white house president reagan will make a brief statement we'll return at that time to pick up that statement then this evening at quarter of seven there will be this sensational fireworks display at the washington monument the hostages will be scattering then tomorrow to return so this has been a sweet day for america to be able to experience an event an occurrence without the controversy or the anger or the violence or any of the meanness that has affected so much of our recent history george lewis and john chancellor i'm roger mudd nbc news washington this has been an nbc news special report and has come to you from washington

02:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLQMHLELqqI&t=7920s)

and has come to you from washington this is the nba

END